Cornwall Oct. 17 — 1848 1848

My Dear Son

yours of the 29th we received on the 12 of this Month, I was much gratified to hear from you and know that you were well, After you left, I for some time felt as if I could not be reconciled, or even support myself under the trial, you do not know, nor can you ever know until you have the experiance, what it is to part with a child, and have but little prospect of ever seeing him again, the sensation is to keen for words to describe, I ~~hope~~ would hope that you may never know what it is, I most ardently wished you success in the object you had in view, and that it not best to throw any impediments in the way, you doubtless thot of some of them, and you now know more of them, I know that to every occupation or pursuit in life, there is difficulty attached, and it will be so as long as men are so wicked, in the business you propose to follow, one must have a taste for it, he must love it, he must exercise patience and fortitude, he must rid himself of all deffidence, I had when young some experience in teaching school, and I know that deffidence was that I had to encounter very often, and it has always been a great trouble to me, you must get rid of all such feeling, and take hold of it, with confidence in yourself, and then the consideration, that not only yourself, but others feelings and opinions, must be satisfyed, and yet a certain independence must be sustained by the teacher, and after all the business is arduous and must be attended with much difficulty, close application and yet with pleasure, in different places, different modes and forms of instruction must be attended to, and different ways of management of a school as you will find probably wherever you go

I thot I had finished writing, and should not write any thing on this page, but one more thought and that is the most important of all others, combined Death & futures judgment and an eternity of Happiness or woe, and for these we must be prepared. We are all in health as when you left

you wrote that you had some idea of going further
south. I would advise you by all means not to do so, if you can do any
thing else, N Orleans is the charnel house of death, and south of
where you are, the climate is extremely dangerous for all
our northern people, as you value life, or if you value it
at all don't rush into the jaws of death needlessly. There is another objection
I don't know how it is in Kentucky, but in most of the south
the very polite fashion exists, of carrying weapons of death, so that if a man
breathes too much free air, his neighbor has a right to deprive him of that
privelege at once, I should be very unwilling to live in such community
and then the polite way of taking a mans heart-blood, by debberately
agreeing on the mode and manner it shall be done, should you
make a stand in such community, you would be obliged to furnish
yourself with a set of implements suited to the position of a
warrior, I cannot think you would be pleased with such situa
=tion, but still, as you are in that condition, its proper
you make the best of it, you will have to keep it always
in your mind, that you are in a land of lurking, and that
your life, is constantly in danger, and that you should
be ever on your guard, I may be mistaken as to the fashions
of the south, but those I have mentioned probably prevail to some
extent, I wish in your next (which will be soon after receiving
this) you will give, as far as you can, a history of the country
its people, and their customs, whether you are contented
and what your future prospects, also a few more particulars
as to your journey, did you see those wonderful falls
and are your affectionate parents

J H Rennie

Sudbury Vt.
Oct 19 1848

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from his father

Mr. Stephen, W. Kennedy

Bowling, Green

Kentucky